

THE
Federated Church
OF SYCAMORE



**A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ &
Unitarian Universalist Association**

***YOU* ARE WELCOME HERE!**

A warm WELCOME to those visiting or checking out Federated Church!

We're glad you're here! Are you looking for more information about who we are, what we do, or how to get involved? Would you like to meet with Pastor Eric or get connected to others? Fill out our brief online [Connection Form here](#), and we will be in touch with you soon!

Federated Church is an Open & Affirming Community

In a time of deep division and vitriolic rhetoric around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, and where the dignity of people living with disabilities or mental health issues are often ignored, demonized, or turned into a joke, we promise to:

Welcome all people of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith expression, marital status & family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, physical ability, mental or emotional condition, economic and social status, and educational background to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our church family.

The Rainbow Flag: We proudly display a rainbow flag at the front of our sanctuary as a visual declaration of God's extravagant and inclusive love, as well as of our own "promise of welcome" to all people. Our prayer is that all can be their truest selves here. This flag serves as a particular signal that our church is a safe and affirming space for LGBTQ persons to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

Order of Worship | September 28, 2025, 10:00 am

*All music can be found at the back of the bulletin. Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold**.*

Prelude “He’s Always Been Faithful” S. Groves, W. Runyan/arr. L. Larson

Welcome & Passing the Peace

We invite you to like the video and/or say “Hi!” in the comments to let us know you’re here.

Gathering Song “When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land” vv. 1, 3, 4 (p.3)

Prayers of the People

Centering Moment

This is your time to center more deeply into the presence of God/Love. Take a slow, deep breath. Open your heart and mind to receive this meditation. Notice the images or phrases that stay with you. Remain present & curious to the feelings they bring up in you.

Visual Meditation

*“Come, Great Spirit” **

Silent Prayer & The Prayer Jesus Taught Us

Alternative words from the New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name

echo through the universe!

The way of your justice

be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace & freedom

sustain our hope & come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,

now and for ever. Amen.

Sung Response “Spirit, I Have Heard You Calling” vv. 1 & 3 (p. 4)

Scripture

[Exodus 12, 14, & 15**](#)

Sermon

“Wade in the Water: Exodus Now!”

Sung Response

“In Egypt Under Pharaoh” vv. 1 & 3 (p.4)

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory

“Wade in the Water”***

African American Spiritual

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that Love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Sending Song

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” vv. 1 & 3 (p. 5)

Benediction

Postlude

“By Faith” S. Townsend, K. & K. Getty, W. Runyan/arr. L. Larson

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Music Director:** Gary Mattin
Children’s Church Director: Bill O’Hagan | **Childcare Support:** Janis Schnurr-Trebe

Liturgist: Ryan Washabaugh | **Ushers:** Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, Oct. 5: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer

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**The Visual Meditation is produced by The Work of the People | theworkofthepeople.com*

***The scripture story retelling used this morning comes from The Just Love Story Bible, and is told by Rev. Dr. Shannon Daley-Harris*

****Our Offertory, “Wade in the Water” is sung by Ryan Washabaugh and Gary Mattin*

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Church Leadership for August 2025 – August 2026:

Moderator: Gip Seaver | **Assoc. Moderator:** Bill O’Hagan | **Past Moderator:** Chris Borresen. | *Should you have any questions concerning the church, how to get involved, or who to contact about something, please reach out to one of them or Pastor Eric, and they will get you the information you need or connect you to someone who can.*

"When Israel Was in Egypt's Land" *African-American spiritual*

Unison



1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, Let my peo-ple go,
2 "Thus spoke our God," bold Mo - ses said, "Let my peo-ple go;
3 No more in bond - age shall they toil, Let my peo-ple go,
4 Oh, let us all from bond-age flee, Let my peo-ple go,



Op - pressed so hard they could not stand, Let my peo-ple go.
If not I'll smite your first-born dead, Let my peo-ple go."
Nor spill their blood on E - gypt's soil, Let my peo-ple go.
And let us all in Christ be free, Let my peo-ple go.

Refrain



Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,



Tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo-ple go.

“Spirit, I Have Heard You Calling” *by Thew Eliot*



1. Spir - it I have heard you call - ing, like a mem - 'ry long grown dim, cry - ing
2. Now I see you all a - round me, now I hear you call my name. Now I
3. Since you moved u - pon my wa - ters, since you spoke and set me free, I have
from cre - a - tion's mo - ment, seek - ing voice from deep with - in. I have
speak the words you give me, now I feed cre - a - tion's flame. You are
yearned for this com - mu - nion, for your fire in - side of me! Now your
heard you in my long - ing, I have heard you in my pain. Now I
speak - ing through my long - ing, You are speak - ing through my pain. Now I
love de - fines my long - ing, now your love shines through my pain. Now we
feel you mov - ing in me, feel you burn - ing like a flame.
feel you mov - ing in me, and I'll nev - er be the same.
dance in end - less un - ion, sing - ing out cre - a - tion's name.

“In Egypt Under Pharaoh” *by Dosia Carlson*

1. In E-gypt un-der Pha-raoh the Is-rael-ites were bound,
from plagues and trib-u-la-tions no re-spite could be found.
Praise God who in sur-pris-ing ways gave pas-sage through the waves.
Our Lib-er-a-tor res-cues, our Lib-er-a-tor saves.
2. From Af-ri-ca to gang-planks, a-cross a friend-less sea,
black cap-tives harsh-ly treat-ed all strug-gled to be free.
Praise God who strength-ened ad-vo-cates with power that does and dares.
Our Lib-er-a-tor res-cues, our Lib-er-a-tor cares.
3. Wher-ev-er hurt-ing hu-mans un-just-ly live in pain,
the hun-gry, home-less, hope-less, cry out for growth and gain.
Praise God whose great re-deem-ing love each ser-vant free-ly gives.
Our Lib-er-a-tor res-cues, our Lib-er-a-tor lives!

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" by James Weldon Johnson

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has

har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the

hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad-owed be -

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

on gleam till vic - to - ry is won.
 of our bright star is cast.
 God, true to our na - tive land.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Know Your Rights Training | Tues., Sept. 30, 5:15-6:15 PM, Dutton Hall

This Spring, the Leadership Board engaged the congregation in a "town hall" after worship to talk further about what our faith calls us to "in such a time as this." This "Know Your Rights" training is one opportunity. Leadership is creating based on those conversations. If "immigration justice" is to be a mission priority for us as a congregation, we all must show up as we can to live into it. Thanks for doing *your* part!

The focus of our training: To prepare local church leaders (and Federated Preschool staff) with the knowledge needed to protect those worshipping with us, using our facilities, and attending our preschool.

Federated Church 101 | Sunday, October 19, after worship

Are you looking to get more connected? Are you looking to learn more about who we are and how to be more involved? Do you have questions you'd like answered? Then we invite you to "Federated 101"—a chance to gather around a table for a conversation with Pastor Eric and others as you get to know those in the same boat. *Participation in a Federated 101 is needed to become a member. Don't miss out, these conversations only happen a couple times a year.* Sign-up in Dutton Hall. See Pastor Eric with any questions.

Fall Church Summit | Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, First Congregational UCC of DeKalb

Many of you joined us last fall at Federated Church for the Fall Summit gathering of the "Thriving Pastors in Revitalizing Congregations" initiative. This Fall, join Pastor Eric and others at First Congregational UCC in DeKalb for another round of inspiring worship and meaningful workshops. This is also a great chance to get to know others in the "wider church" and experience the diversity of our denomination. *Cost is \$50 to attend. If you're interested in participating, let Pastor Eric know; if needed, the church can also help offset the cost!*

Feed My Starving Children | Sun., Nov. 16, 3-5PM, Suter Company

Federated Church is getting a group together to help with FMSC. Sign-up in Dutton Hall. For more information see Sue McCue or Linda Babcock.

Weekly eNews



Scan the code at the left to see the most recent eNews & to subscribe.

Church Calendar



Scan the code at the right to see the church's Master Calendar of events.

OUR FEDERATED VALUES

We believe in God

At the center of our faith is the surprising, unsettling, and deeply personal God found in the Bible, most profoundly revealed in the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus. At Federated, our primary interest is not merely talking *about* God, but in *encountering* the Mysterious Force at the heart of the universe. This is a God who comforts us where we need to be comforted and challenges us where we've become complacent. This is a God who will not be confined to dogmatic teachings, nor even to the Bible. We believe that we are invited to encounter this God everywhere: in nature, science, one another, and in other religious traditions as well.

Each person is on a unique spiritual journey

We value faith as a journey rather than a destination. We recognize that each person is at a different place on their journey, so we focus on “testimonies” of faith rather than “tests” of faith; stories of how we are being transformed, rather than dogmas we must affirm. Here, you are welcome to belong, question, explore, and lead whether you grew up in church and loved it, or you've had a painful relationship with Christianity; you are welcome whether you feel your faith is unshakeable or you're not sure if you believe in God at all. You are welcome to join a community of people “on the way”: encouraging and caring for one another, learning and growing together, and serving alongside each other as we build, in some small way, the world we believe God dreams of.

Building authentic community across our differences

We are an “Open and Affirming” congregation, which is our way of saying that we value diversity. In a time of deep division, we believe it is paramount to gather people from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and identities in order to build authentic relationships and community. We believe that the simple but courageous work of showing up and being together in this way is one necessary element in healing our nation and world's deep divisions.

We believe in peace through justice

In this congregation, conversations regarding racism, sexism, poverty, war, immigration, homophobia, hunger, abuse, and a host of other issues are commonplace, both from the pulpit and around the table. We know that the Realm of God is not being experienced on earth so long as people are being hurt. With Martin Luther King Jr., we believe that we are all “caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny,” and that “none of us can be free until all are free.” Which means that, as a community, we have a God-given responsibility and mission to work for justice and healing in our neighborhood and beyond. Jesus says: “I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). This work is defined not merely by what we are against, but the vision we are for—flourishing for *all*!

“Welcoming Any, Loving All”

*The Federated Church is affiliated with two national denominations:
the United Church of Christ & the Unitarian Universalist Association*



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